



# CENTRO

Date: May 8, 2025

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education  
From: Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural  
Re: **SUPPORT SB 5525**

Co-chairs Sen. Sollman, Rep. Ruiz, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education,

My name is Nansi Lopez, and I am the Policy Director at Centro Cultural. I am writing on behalf of Centro Cultural to express strong support for SB 5525 and the investments it proposes in higher education and workforce development. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 5525, which will support the future of Oregonians.

**Centro Cultural is the oldest and longest-serving Latino culturally specific organization in the state of Oregon. It empowers Latino families and diverse communities by removing barriers, fostering well-being, and building power to achieve economic prosperity. Centro centers the experiences of those most impacted in our communities in everything we do, with a commitment to reducing barriers at every level of our work.**

Centro has been the proud recipient of the Workforce Ready Grant from 2022 - 2024. Centro Cultural's Workforce Development Department is securing prosperity, improving economic mobility, and eliminating disparities for historically underrepresented communities in Oregon. The investments proposed in SB 5525 are crucial and will benefit historically underrepresented people by participating and being included in the workforce sector and its changing landscape. These benefits are not just promises but a guarantee of a brighter future for all Oregonians. Centro's deep commitment to successful outcomes through Future Ready Oregon and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is a testament to the importance of these investments, which will ensure prosperity for **ALL** Oregonians.

The funding has supported collaboration across different sectors and created robust and innovative programming, which has paved the way for success for some of our most historically unserved and underrepresented communities. We are committed to changing the workforce development landscape and being a leader in successful workforce readiness and upward economic mobility for our historically unserved and underrepresented communities.

Centro's efforts in securing this funding now and in the future are crucial for Oregon as they address the talent needs of industries and enhance capacity in manufacturing and healthcare. With the backing of SB 5525, Centro Cultural is dedicated to ensuring that Oregon's workforce not only meets but exceeds the demands and growth of various sectors.



Support SB 5255 for the future of Oregonians, who deserve to be prosperous and thrive. Oregon's economic competitiveness and advancement, a more equitable workforce system, and the increase of economic prosperity for all Oregonians are in your hands. The time to fund a PROSPEROUS Oregon is now.

Sincerely,

***Nansi López*** | *Policy Director, Centro Cultural*